

In response to that Office Action, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE TITLE:

Please amend the title to read as follows (a version thereof, marked to show the changes made thereto, is appended):

--METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REPRODUCING A LINEAR DOCUMENT HAVING NON-LINEAR REFERENTIAL LINKS--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 52 and 53 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1-3, 10-13, 17-22, 29-32, 36-38, 42 and 45-48, and add Claim 54, to read as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

a1 Sub 1
1. (Amended) A method of creating a document suitable for hard copy reproduction, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving information from at least one electronic source document, said information including a plurality of referential links establishing corresponding referential paths between components of said information;

(b) defining a physical structure of said document suitable for hard copy reproduction and sufficient to reproduce said information;

(c) defining a plurality of document links associated with said physical structure and corresponding to said referential links;

(d) assigning a user interpretable functional link to each said document link; and

(e) optimizing a number of said user interpretable functional links by assigning plural ones of said document links to at least an individual one of said functional links.

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2. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said physical structure comprises at least one single printable page and said functional links comprise at least one indicium printable onto said single page, and step (e) comprises merging plural ones of said document links to form a single said indicia associated with a component on said page.

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said physical structure comprises plural printable pages and said functional links comprise at least one cut-out tab formed in at least one of said pages, and step (e) comprises assigning plural ones of said document links to a single one of said cut-out tabs.

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10. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of associating a predetermined stylistic layout with said optimized functional links so as to vary a hard-copy reproduction of said document.

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11. (Amended) A method according to claim 10 wherein said predetermined stylistic layout implements the formation of cut-out tabs as at least some of said optimized functional links.

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12. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein step (e) comprises grouping said document links according to predetermined criteria associated with said document links, each said group having associated therewith at least one corresponding optimized functional link.

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13. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 or 12 wherein step (e) comprises the sub-steps of:

(ea) importing said information into said structure to form said document; and

(eb) applying said optimized links to said document.

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17. (Amended) An authoring system for the creation of a linear document having non-linear referential links, said system including:

means for specifying a linear document structure and the hyperlinks of a hypermedia source document;

means for associating said hyperlinks with physical links able to be formed in pages of said linear document;

means for modelling each said physical link using a one-dimensional vector; and

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means for optimizing an assignment of said physical links to one or more of said hyperlinks.

18. (Amended) An authoring system for the creation of a linear document having non-linear referential links, said system comprising:

means for assessing hyperlinks within a source hypermedia document to which a linear document structure is to be applied;

means for associating said hyperlinks with physical links able to be formed in pages of said linear document;

means for modelling each said physical link using a one-dimensional vector; and

means for optimizing an assignment of said physical links to one or more of said hyperlinks.

19. (Amended) A system for the creation of a linear document having non-linear referential links, said system comprising:

means for assessing hyperlinks within a source hypermedia document to which a linear document structure is to be applied;

means for associating said hyperlinks with physical links able to be formed in pages of said linear document;

means for modelling each said physical link using a one-dimensional vector;

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means for optimizing an assignment of said physical links to one or more of said hyperlinks;

means for applying said linear document structure and said optimized physical links to said hypermedia document to produce said linear document; and means for reproducing said linear document.

20. (Amended) A computer program product incorporating a computer readable medium incorporating a series of instructions for creating a document suitable for hard copy reproduction, said instructions implementing the steps of:

- (a) receiving information from at least one electronic source document, said information including a plurality of referential links establishing corresponding referential paths between components of said information;
- (b) defining a physical structure of said document suitable for hard copy reproduction and sufficient to reproduce said information;
- (c) defining a plurality of document links associated with said physical structure and corresponding to said referential links;
- (d) assigning a user interpretable functional link to each said document link; and
- (e) optimizing a number of said user interpretable functional links by assigning plural ones of said document links to at least an individual one of said functional links.

21. (Amended) A computer program product according to claim 20,

wherein said physical structure comprises at least one single printable page and said functional links comprise at least one indicia printable onto said single page, and step (e) comprises merging plural ones of said document links to form a single said indicia associated with a component on said page.

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22. (Amended) A computer program product according to claim 20, wherein said physical structure comprises plural printable pages and said functional links comprise at least one cut-out tab formed in at least one of said pages, and step (e) comprises assigning plural ones of said document links to a single one of said cut-out tabs.

29. (Amended) A computer program product according to claim 20, further comprising the step of associating a predetermined stylistic layout with said optimized functional links so as to vary a hard-copy reproduction of said document.

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30. (Amended) A computer program product according to claim 29 wherein said predetermined stylistic layout implements the formation of cut-out tabs as at least some of said optimized functional links.

31. (Amended) A computer program product according to claim 20, wherein step (e) comprises grouping said document links according to predetermined criteria associated with said document links, each said group having associated therewith at least one corresponding optimized functional link.

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32. (Amended) A computer program product according to claim 20

wherein step (e) comprises the sub-steps of:

- (ea) importing said information into said structure to form said document; and
- (eb) applying said optimized links to said document.
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36. (Amended) A system for creating a document suitable for hard copy reproduction, said system comprising:

first means for receiving information from at least one electronic source document, said information including a plurality of referential links establishing corresponding referential paths between components of said information;

second means for defining a physical structure of said document suitable for hard copy reproduction and sufficient to reproduce said information;

third means for defining a plurality of document links associated with said physical structure and corresponding to said referential links;

fourth means for assigning a user interpretable functional link to each said document link; and

fifth means for optimizing a number of said user interpretable functional links by assigning plural ones of said document links to at least an individual one of said functional links.

37. (Amended) A system according to claim 36, wherein said physical structure comprises at least one single printable page and said functional links comprise at least

one indicia printable onto said single page, and said fifth means comprises means for merging plural ones of said document links to form a single said indicia associated with a component on said page.

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38. (Amended) A system according to claim 36 wherein said physical structure comprises plural printable pages and said functional links comprise at least one cut-out tab formed in at least one of said pages, and said fifth means comprises means for assigning plural ones of said document links to a single one of said cut-out tabs.

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42. (Amended) A system according to claim 41 further comprising means for retaining said presentational style of said document in a template for formatting at least one subsequent document with said presentational style.

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45. (Amended) A system according to claim 36, further comprising means for associating a predetermined stylistic layout with said optimized functional links so as to vary a hard-copy reproduction of said document.

46. (Amended) A system according to claim 45 wherein said predetermined stylistic layout implements the formation of cut-out tabs as at least some of said optimized functional links.

47. (Amended) A system according to claim 46, wherein said fifth means comprises grouping said document links according to predetermined criteria associated with said

document links, each said group having associated therewith at least one corresponding optimized functional link.

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ON^t 48. (Amended) A system according to claim 36 wherein said fifth means

comprises:

means for importing said information into said structure to form said document; and

means for applying said optimized links to said document.

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-54. (New) A hard copy document comprising:

information received from at least one electronic source document, said source document including a plurality of non-linear referential links establishing corresponding referential paths between components of said information; and

a number of user interpretable functional links formed in said hard copy document and providing user interpretable functional paths spanning plural pages of said hard copy document between corresponding components of said information, whereby at least one of said functional links has a part that corresponds to plural ones of said non-linear referential links.--

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract to read as shown on the following page (a version, marked to show the changes, is appended):

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--A method of creating a document suitable for hard copy reproduction is disclosed. Information from at least one source is obtained, the information including a plurality of referential links establishing corresponding referential paths between components of the information. A physical structure of the document to be formed is established, and a plurality of document links are defined corresponding to the referential links. A user interpretable functional link is assigned to each document link; and the number of user interpretable functional links is optimized by assigning plural ones of the document links to at least an individual one of the functional links.--
